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MINING AND METALLURGY IN THE GDR DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1951

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Ore Mining

Because of the mechanical improvement in work conditions, the output of iron ore increased during the first half of 1951 over the same period in 1950. In 1950, manual work methods predominated in the East German iron-ore mines. Since then, however, the supply of pneumatic hammers and drills, mechanical underground transporting equipment, etc., has brought about a noticeable improvement.

The East German demand for iron ore can be fully met, the only consumer at present being the Maxhuette plant in Unterwellenborn. Part of the output is even being stored, since only small quantities are suitable for export because of the ore's poor quality. The ores have an average Fe content of 30 percent.

When the new metallurgical plant on the Oder River [East Metallurgical Combine at Fuerstenberg] goes into operation, the East German iron ore will have to be supplemented by imports.

The copper-ore output in East Germany is completely insufficient to satisfy the available manufacturing capacities. The total output of refined and electrolytic copper in East Germany meets only 40 percent of requirements. Furthermore, the mined copper contains, on an average, only 12 kilograms Cu per ton of ore. Substantial subsidies continue to be needed by the copper-ore mining industry. In 1950, these subsidies amounted to 165 Deutsche marks per ton of copper ore.

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Metallurgy

The 1951 planned quota for pig iron could be exceeded if the first blast furnace at the new East Metallurgical Combine in Fuerstenberg/Oder were put in operation in September 1951, as is planned.

Of the approximately 30,000-ton monthly requirement of foundry pig iron in East Germany, only 5,000-6,000 tons monthly can be produced. Also, East Germany depends almost completely on imports of pig iron for steel, since its own production amounts to only 1,200-1,600 tons monthly. The situation will be alleviated with the help of the East Metallurgical Combine and the new [West] Metallurgical Combine in Calbe/Saale, but this improvement can be expected in 1952-1953 at the earliest.

A special problem in the East German iron and steel industry is quality. In this connection, Heinrich Rau, chairman of the East German Planning Commission, said during the sixth session of the Central Committee of the SED (Socialist Unity Party) on 14 June 1951: "The high percentage of rejects in the metal fabricating industry is due, first of all, to the qualitatively unsatisfactory materials supplied by the metallurgical industry."

GDR Metallurgical and Mining Production

Product	Planned Quota, First Half 51 (tons)	Fulfillment of Planned Quota, First Half 51 (tons)	(%)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) Compared With First Half 50 (%)
Metallurgical Production				
Pig iron	178,000	173,100	97.3	+4
Thomas pig iron	135,000	113,200	83.7	-11
Foundry pig iron	17,000	32,000	188.2	0
Crude steel ingots	707,700	703,700	99.3	+50
Thomas steel	117,000	96,400	82.4	-11
Siemens-Martin steel	555,900	569,600	102.3	+92
Electric steel	34,800	37,700	108.2	+ 8
Hot-rolled steel	455,200	499,000	109.7	+56
Sections	277,500	292,300	105.3	+66
Sheet	159,700	185,600	116.3	+42
Strip	12,000	14,400	120.0	+64
Refined and electrolytic copper	14,900	13,100	88.0	+23
Refined and electrolytic lead	9,900	8,500	85.8	+38

Product	Planned Quota, First Half 51 (tons)	Fulfillment of Planned Quota, First Half 51 (tons)	(%)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) Compared With First Half 50 (%)
Tin	240	144	60.0	+36
Nonferrous rolling-mill products	34,300	31,600	92.1	+10
Mining Production*				
Iron ore	278,500	218,500	78.3	+8
Copper ore	455,000	474,500	104.1	+25
Lead concentrate (in terms of Pb content)	1,170,000	1,504,000	128.5	+189
Tin concentrate (in terms of Sn content)	119,000	134,000	112.5	+65
Pyrites	51,900	52,500	101.1	+17

*Includes production of SAGs (Soviet Corporations)

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